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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (FIRST PARAGRAPH AND PARA. 2.)

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SUBJECT: AUDIENCE WITH SHAH APRIL 5
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SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS/ISAF: PARLIAMENTARY TRIP CANCELED; LABOR PARTY SHIFTING (SLOWLY)

Classified By: Charge D'Affaires Chat Blakeman, reasons 1.4 (b,d)

1. (C) Summary: The Dutch parliament on January 18 called off a fact-finding mission to Afghanistan citing security concerns and time constraints.
Parliamentary Trip Canceled

2. (C) MFA Deputy Head for Conflict Prevention Joop Nijssen told Polmiloff January 19 that Parliament opted to cancel the proposed fact-finding mission.

3. (C) Parliament hopes to invite experts from NATO and Afghanistan to participate in the January 30 hearing, thereby obviating the need for a hearing in the
Support Building in PvdA

4. (C) Several members of the opposition Labor Party (PvdA) have expressed their willingness -- with caveats -- to support the ISAF III mission.

5. (C) In a meeting with Polcouns on January 18, PvdA Defense Spokesman Frans Timmermans assessed that support for the mission within active parliament is strong.

6. (C) Charge and Polcouns met with Wouter Bos and Koenders on January 19. After hearing Charge's arguments in favor of the Dutch deployment to Afghanistan, Koenders expressed support for the mission.

Comment

7. (C) PvdA has played the Stage III question cautiously, but continues to keep an open mind. While the news of their possible receptivity to the mission is positive, the Dutch government is still cautious.